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Dated: March 24, 2003

Signature: *Beth J. Cobb*

(Beth J. Cobb)

Docket No.: HO-P01944US1
(PATENT) #9

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:

Randy B. Thomas, et al

Application No.: 09/735,161

Group Art Unit: 1714

Filed: December 12, 2000

Examiner: C. Toomer

For: ASPHALT EMULSION SYSTEM
PRODUCING AND SPRAYING PROCESS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 24, 2002

Box Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 24, 2002 (Paper No. 8), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 37-50.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for introducing an asphalt into a synthetic fuel process, comprising the steps of:
 - introducing into the synthetic fuel process an oil-in-water asphalt emulsion;
 - passing said asphalt emulsion to an atomizer;
 - adding to said atomizer a motivating gas to form an asphalt aerosol spray;
 - agitating a coal fines feed stream; and
 - injecting said aerosol spray into said agitated coal fines.
2. (Original) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said asphalt emulsion comprises asphalt particles having an average diameter of about 5 microns or less.
3. (Original) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said asphalt emulsion is anionic, cationic or non-ionic.